

enthusiasm, and wisdom in representing Romania, while working to develop the bilateral relationship between Romania and the United States.

Ambassador Maior's diplomatic career spans three decades. He joined the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1992 and served in the Department of Treaties and later the Department of Strategic Affairs. From 1997 to 1999, he served as the Chargé D'affaires at the Romanian Embassy in Dublin, Ireland and in 2004, he was conferred the rank of Ambassador.

Throughout his career, he has served in top positions dedicated to public service, including as State Secretary and head of the Department for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Defense Policy within the Romanian Ministry of National Defense.

In November 2004, Ambassador Maior was elected as Senator in the Romanian Parliament, where he served as Chairman of the Committee for Defense, Public Order and National Security; member of the Joint Committee for the Parliamentary Oversight on the Foreign Intelligence Service Activity; and member of the Senate Committee for Human Rights, Cults and Minorities.

In 2006, he was nominated to serve as the Director of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI). During his eight years as Director, the SRI bolstered its bilateral and multilateral partnerships with intelligence services around the world. Ambassador Maior was consistently recognized by the United States Government for his outstanding partnership and exceptional leadership in that position.

I wish Ambassador Maior and his wife Anamaria the greatest success and happiness as he moves to his next assignment as Romania's Ambassador to Jordan. While he will be missed in the United States, I am confident he will continue to emphasize the strategic importance of the bilateral relationship between our two nations.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONNIE DORL

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of Connie (Connie) Dorl, and to congratulate her on her March 26th retirement.

Connie has served at the USDA in Johnson and Henry counties for the last 31 years. She has helped many farmers, producers, and ranchers within these counties of Missouri's 4th District over those three decades. Connie has been with the USDA through all the years' changes and has never failed to help others through her work. It is dedicated professionals like Connie who enable our farmers to succeed and feed the world.

In addition to helping agricultural communities, Connie has also been a dedicated military spouse and mother. She has been able to balance these three elements of her life in such a successful way that she has been there for anyone in need. Those who know Connie can attest to her untiring support of her family and Missouri's agricultural communities.

I would like to recognize Connie's dedication and 31 years of service and congratulate her on her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during roll call vote number 106. Had I been present I would have voted YES.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for a recorded vote on April 15, 2021 during a period of time for H.R. 1502, the Microloan Improvement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 114.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SHIRLEE LAFLEUR

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 16, 2021

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Shirlee Lafleur a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, a community leader in South Florida, and a longtime member of my staff.

Shirlee Moreau was born on November 10, 1969, in Miami Beach, Florida to Eugenie V. Moreau and Avenant Moreau, Sr. She was the second of three children born to this union.

Shirlee found her true purpose in life on January 26, 2002, when she laid the foundation for one of the most beautiful and God-blessed families by marrying Pierre Paul Lafleur. Their love produced two talented and amazing daughters, Amanda and Samantha around whom they centered their lives, and who like their parents excel in the classroom and in the many activities in which they take part. While Shirlee was dedicated to helping others, she was even more devoted to her two blessings from God, always glowing and excited when talking about them.

God touched Shirlee in a very special way and she, in turn, touched the lives of so many others. A faithful member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, led by Reverend Arthur Jackson, III., she was very proud of her membership and was not shy about inviting others to find solace in the bosom of Christ. Shirlee had a very close and personal relationship with Christ. Her faith was grounded in belief in Psalm 18:2, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Shirlee was especially proud of her American and Haitian heritage. She fought tirelessly for the rights and well-being of Haitians throughout the diaspora and was an unparalleled leader in the Haitian community and at the forefront of immigration issues, given Miami's unofficial status as the second capital of Haiti due to its large concentration of people

of Haitian heritage. It was her Haitian roots and strong cultural beliefs in the importance of faith, family, and friends instilled in her by her mother, Eugenie Moreau, that made her such a dogged advocate for others.

Shirlee was an outstanding student at North Miami High School. Although she was quiet, she was well liked for her friendly nature and helpful attitude that would become the trademark of her life. As a flageolet of the North Miami marching band, she began to blossom into the social butterfly that she would later become.

After graduating from high school, Shirlee continued to excel academically earning a degree in business administration from Florida International University. Even more impressive, Shirlee worked while in college to support herself, which is indicative of her independent spirit. Upon graduation, she developed what initially began as an internship into a permanent supervisory position with Dade's Team Metro. She was a natural for the position which required her to help Miami Dade residents resolve often complex issues with county services.

In 1998, she elevated her burgeoning career in public service by accepting a position as a legislative assistant in the office of then-Florida State Senator Kendrick B. Meek. Shirlee's commitment to helping her community shone even brighter as a member of Senator Meek's staff and she continued to be one of his most trusted staff members when he ascended to the United States House of Representatives.

Shirlee played a prominent role in several incidents that made national and international headlines. She was the central cog to many of the life-changing efforts that the congressional office undertook during her tenure. She was integral in helping to facilitate the efforts to liberate the nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls, known as the Chibok Girls, kidnapped by Boko Haram as part of the international #BringBackOurGirls campaign that I had pledged to wage until all of the girls are returned home. Shirlee helped coordinate documentation and travel for several of the girls who escaped their captors to find safe havens and a brighter future in the United States.

This effort was not the exception, but the norm. She worked through the night many times to stave off a deportation of parents who were casualties of a sometimes-harsh immigration system. Families were reunited and their stories made headlines, but Shirlee, a central figure in turning miraculous efforts into reality, was soon on to the next challenge within only a few minutes. Without exaggeration, her work has saved the lives of thousands who have sought refuge in our great nation.

In one of the rare times she was unable to avoid the spotlight, she was recognized in a May 2013 Miami Herald article for organizing an eleventh-hour effort to prevent a father from being ripped from his family and deported to Mexico. When an 18-year-old asked at a town hall meeting if there was anything that could be done to save his father who was set to be deported at 4 a.m. the following morning, I was initially stunned by the short window within which there was to work, but knew that if anyone could keep this family together, Shirlee could. Needless to say, she did and as the article noted as a true testament to her commitment, "Shirlee Lafleur called everyone."